

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----096061 181559Z /43

O R 181350Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 248
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PDEV, PORG, UNSC, ET, SO
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN OF AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 42000, (B) STATE 41087, (C) KUWAIT 939

1. I MET FEBRUARY 18 WITH FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY
RASHID AL-RASHID WITH WHOM I HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED

ELEMENTS OF POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
OF SOMALI-THEIOPIAN CONFLICT (REF. C).

2. USING MATERIAL PROVIDED REF. A, I EXPLAINED THAT USG BELIEVED TIME FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO ACT HAD COME AND PROVIDED RASHID AL-RASHID WITH OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE UNSC RESOLUTION ON OGADEN CONFLICT.

3. I TOLD AL-RASHID THAT WE WERE NOT REQUESTING GOK TO SEND ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS UN DELEGATION, WITH WHICH WE WERE ALREADY CONSULTING. (AL-RASHID WAS AWARE OF USUN CONTACTS WITH KUWAITI UN DEL.) HOWEVER, USG WISHED GOK TO BE INFORMED OF ITS THINKING ON THIS MATTER AND TO SOLICIT ITS ADVICE SO THAT WE COULD PROCEED IN COOPERATION.

4. AT THIS POINT AL-RASHID SPOKE UP TO AGREE WITH MY COMMENT (DRAWN FROM PARA 3, REF. A) THAT SOMALIS HAD INDEED ACKNOWLEDGED PRESENCE OF THEIR TROOPS IN OGADEN. HE THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE THEREFORE EVEN MORE COMMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE SOMALI INHABITANTS RESIDING IN THE OGADEN AND WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES.

5. I THEN MADE THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REF. C RE NEED FOR SOMALI STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW AS
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KEY TO SUCCESS OF ANY EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. I NOTED THAT WE RECOGNIZE SOMALIS WOULD WISH TO ASSOCIATE CERTAIN CONDITIONS WITH SUCH A STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF THE OGADEN INHABITANTS. I REQUESTED THE COOPERATION OF THE GOK IN PERSUADING SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE TO ISSUE A "WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW" STATEMENT AS THE FIRST STEP IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

6. AL-RASHID REPORTED THAT, FOLLOWING OUR PREVIOUS MEETING (REF. C), THE KUWAIT AMBASSADOR HAD MET WITH THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS ELEMENTS WHICH COULD CONSTITUTE THE BASIS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, BUT THAT NO SPECIFIC REACTION HAD BEEN OBTAINED AS YET FROM THE GOS. THE GOK HAD ALSO BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SAUDIS ON THIS MATTER.

7. IN RESPONSE TO AL-RASHID'S QUERY ON WHETHER WE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF THIS STATEMENT WITH THE SOMALIS, I INDICATED THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN MOGADISCIO MAY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SIAD BUT THAT I HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS. I TOLD AL-RASHID WE WERE ALSO SENDING A SPECIAL

EMISSARY FROM WASHINGTON TO ADDIS ABABA SINCE WE HAD
NO AMBASSADOR THERE.

8. AL-RASHID STRESSED THAT ANY EFFORT TO ORGANIZE A
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT MUST PROCEED ON A BALANCED BASIS.
HE OBSERVED THAT THE SOMALIS WERE VERY MISTRUSTFUL
OF MENGISTU BECAUSE THEY FELT HE MAY BE MANIPULATED
BY THE SOVIETS. A NEW ELEMENT WAS THE POTENTIAL SPREAD
OF THE CONFLICT IN REGIONAL TERMS AS WELL AS IN THE
WIDER GLOBAL RESPECTS THAT I HAD MENTIONED. HE NOTED
THAT THE RECENT KENYA-EGYPT AFFAIR HAD FORTUNATELY BEEN
STRAIGHTENED OUT QUICKLY.

9. I ASSURED AL-RASHID THAT WE WERE AWARE OF THIS AND
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THAT THE ELEMENTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND THE
PROPOSED SC RESOLUTION TOOK THIS INTO ACCOUNT. I
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE OAU MEDIATION INITIATIVE, WHICH
WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED, MAY NOT GET ANYWHERE. THEREFORE,
WE BELIEVED THIS WAS THE TIME TO TURN TO THE UNSC. OUR
OUTLINE OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION STRESSED AND SUPPORTED THE
ROLE OF A OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION TO BE ESTABLISHED.

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10. CONCLUDING THE MEETING, I AGAIN REQUESTED THAT GOK
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COOPERATE IN PERSUADING SIAD BARRE TO MAKE THIS NECESSARY STATEMENT. AL-RASHID SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THE FONMIN AND THAT THE MFA WOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE UNSC ACTION WE PROPOSED. HE PROMISED TO KEEP ME INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS EMERGING FROM KUWAITI DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOS.

11. COMMENT: I CHOOSE NOT TO COORDINATE WITH MY UK AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES WHO APPARENTLY HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED HERE IN THIS MATTER. I WILL, HOWEVER, BRIEF THEM ON THE GENERAL LINES OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH AL-RASHID.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, UNSC RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT00989
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780076-0266
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780238/aaaabfpk.tel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0dee07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 42000, 78 STATE 41087, 78 KUWAIT 939
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3549620
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN OF AFRICA
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, ET, SO, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0dee07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014